



## **AN ANALYSIS OF THE PROBLEMS AND OBSTACLES TO WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT IN INDIA**

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### **Abstract:**

*The empowerment of women is currently one of the most important topics of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Yet, women's emancipation remains a fantasy. We see in daily life how different societal ills target women as victims. A nation's social, economic, or political development will stall if women are not involved in national affairs. Women make up half of humankind and labour for 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of world's working hours. She owns less than 1/10<sup>th</sup> of the world's resources and barely earns 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the global income. This demonstrates how miserable women's economic standing is in a country like India. Women's empowerment involves strengthening women's rights to all their social, economic, and educational requirements. Its objective is to give women access to a gender-neutral atmosphere. To give them equal rights in the workplace, family, society, and community.*

*The current paper seeks to examine the state of women's empowerment in India and underlines the problems and obstacles that remain. The study's conclusion states that women's empowerment is only made possible through access to education, employment, and participation in social, political, and economic life of the nation with sense of equity.*

**Key words:** Women Empowerment, hindrances to women's empowerment, Education, Employment, priorities and initiatives to enhance women emancipation

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### **INTRODUCTION:**

Women's empowerment will be true and successful only if they are given access to property and money, allowing them to stand on their own two feet and establish their identities in society.

Since the beginning of the twenty-first century, the standing of national movement has gradually shifted. Despite numerous government initiatives, the study shows that women in India still have a limited amount of influence and have a somewhat lower status than men. Regarding access

to jobs and education, there is a gender gap. Age, education, and employment level all have a significant impact on a woman's ability to make decisions about her household and her freedom of movement.

It is discovered that women continue to accept society's unjust gender stereotypes. Domestic abuse is more likely to affect rural women than metropolitan ones. Moreover, there is a large gender disparity in political participation. The study's conclusion notes that employment and educational



opportunities and change in social structure are merely enabling variables to Women Empowerment.

**OBJECTIVES:**

1. To analyse the total IPC Crimes against Women in India.
2. To analyse the total SLL Crimes against Women in India.
3. To study the priorities and initiatives to promote Women Empowerment in India.
4. To compare the Crimes against Women in various States of India.

**RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:**

This paper is analytical and descriptive in nature. In this paper, an analysis of highlights of challenges of women's empowerment in India has been attempted, the data for the same is retrieved from *National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.*

To meet the needs of this investigation, only secondary sources were used to collect the data.

**DELIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY:**

1. The analysis examined only a small portion of the crime against women.
2. This study was limited to a few locations in India.

**ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION:**

Current Circumstances of Crime against Women: A report on the crimes against Women by the National Crime Records Bureau comes up with alarming statistics.

1. In the present study the **First Objective** was to analyse the total IPC Crimes against Women in India. Result related to this is given in Table 1. Cognizable crimes categorized under the 'Indian Penal Code (IPC)'

**Table 1: Crime Head - Wise Incidents of IPC Crime Against Women in India during 2018-2021 and Percentage Variation in 2021 over 2020**

Sr. No.	Crime Head	Year				Percentage Variation in 2021 over 2020
		2018	2019	2020	2021	
1.	Murder with Rape/Gang Rape (Sec.376 IPC)	296	286	226	293	29.64%
2.	Rape (Sec.376 IPC)	33977	32260	28153	31878	13.23%
3.	Dowry Deaths (Sec. 304B IPC)	7277	7162	7045	6795	- 3.54%
4.	Abetment to Suicide of Women (Sec. 305/306 IPC)	5266	5088	5132	5386	4.94%
5.	Acid Attack (Sec. 326A IPC)	136	156	109	107	-1.83%
Sr. No.	Crime Head	2018	2019	2020	2021	Percentage Variation in 2021 over 2020
6.	Cruelty by Husband or his relatives (Sec. 498 A IPC)	104165	126575	112292	137956	22.85%

7.	Kidnapping & Abduction (Sec. 336 IPC)	75333	73844	63693	76263	19.73%
8.	Assault on Women with Intent to Outrage her Modesty (Sec. 354 IPC)	90039	89292	86745	90675	4.53%
<b>A.</b>	<b>Total IPC Crimes against Women</b>	329638	348162	315694	362891	<b>14.95%</b>

Source: [https://ncrb.gov.in/sites/default/files/CII-2021/CII\\_2021Volume%201.pdf](https://ncrb.gov.in/sites/default/files/CII-2021/CII_2021Volume%201.pdf)

**Findings from Table 1:**

1. There is a **rise** in percentage of Assault on Women with Intent to Outrage her Modesty in 2021.
2. There is a **dip** in percentage of crimes like Dowry Deaths, Acid Attack in 2021 as compared to the previous years.
3. The total IPC crimes in 2021 have increased to **14.95%**.
2. In the present study the **Second Objective** was to analyse the total SLL Crimes against Women in India. Result related to this is given in Table 2. Cognizable crimes categorized under the '*Special and Local Laws (SLL)*'.

**Table 2: Crime Head - Wise Incidents of SLL Crime Against Women in India during 2018-2021 and Percentage Variation in 2021 over 2020**

Sr. No.	Crime Head	Year				Percentage Variation in 2021 over 2020
		2018	2019	2020	2021	
1.	SLL Crimes: Cyber Crimes/Information Technology Act	1268	1645	2399	<b>2668</b>	<b>11.21%</b>
2.	SLL Crimes: Use of Child for Pornography/Storing Child Pornography Material (Sec.14 & 15 of POCSO Act)	790	1081	555	<b>528</b>	<b>-4.86%</b>
<b>B.</b>	<b>Total SLL Crimes against Women</b>	56975	64423	61193	72077	<b>17.78%</b>

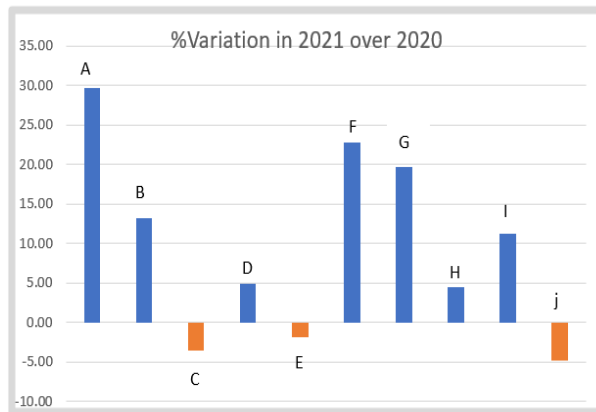
Source: [https://ncrb.gov.in/sites/default/files/CII-2021/CII\\_2021Volume%201.pdf](https://ncrb.gov.in/sites/default/files/CII-2021/CII_2021Volume%201.pdf)

**Findings from Table 2:**

1. There is a **rise** in percentage of Cyber-crimes in 2021 as compared to the previous years.
2. There is a **dip** in percentage of crimes with Children in 2021 as compared to the previous years.
3. The total SLL crimes in 2021 have increased to **17.78%**.



A	Murder with Rape/Gang Rape (Sec.376 IPC)
B	Rape (Sec.376 IPC)
C	Dowry Deaths (Sec. 304B IPC)
D	Abetment to Suicide of Women (Sec.305/306 IPC)
E	Acid Attack (Sec. 326A IPC)
F	Cruelty by Husband or his relatives (Sec. 498 A IPC)
G	Kidnapping & Abduction (Sec. 336 IPC)
H	Assault on Women with Intent to Outrage her Modesty (Sec. 354 IPC)
I	SLL Crimes: Cyber Crimes/Information Technology Act
J	SLL Crimes: Use of Child for Pornography/Storing Child Pornography Material (Sec. 14 & 15 of POCSO Act)



3. In the present study the **Third Objective** was to Study the priorities and initiatives to promote Women Empowerment.

Result related to Government Initiatives is given in Table 3.

**PRIORITIES AND INITIATIVES:**

The high-level goal of women's empowerment should be encouraged in every family starting in early infancy. Women must be strong on all fronts—physically, psychologically, and socially. Prioritizing gender equality promotes women's empowerment across the nation.

*In India to empower women, first we need to get rid of:*

1. **Gender discrimination-** The patriarchal framework of Indian households also results in inequality of power and employment for men and women. Gender discrimination affects women in the areas like nutrition, education, health, care, decline of female population, job, public life.
2. **Lack of education:** Women are discouraged from pursuing higher education, such as professional

and technical education, the percentage of women educated in India is low, particularly in rural areas.

3. **Atrocities on Women:** Female Infanticide, Family Responsibility, Dowry, absence of ambition for achievement, Prone to exploitation and harassment in work areas, Health, and Safety.

*In India to empower women, secondly, we need to take stock of the progress of:*

1. Higher levels of literacy among women and their greater participation in the workforce have contributed to increasing their political awareness and confidence to cast their vote
2. **Reservations for women** in *panchayats* and municipalities have also helped enhance female inclusion in the structures of power at the local level.
3. **Political reforms**, technological transformation, and notions of women's rights are gaining momentum and encouraging more women to stand strong for their rights and know their worth.

**Table 3: Government Initiatives to promote Women Empowerment- listed under the Ministry of Women and Child Development:**

Sr. No.	Women Empowerment scheme	Launch Year	Objectives
1.	Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme	2015	*To prevent gender-biased sex selective elimination *To ensure survival & protection of the girl child *To ensure education and participation of the girl child
2.	One-Stop Centre Scheme	2015	*To provide support and assistance to women affected by violence, both in private and public spaces. *To Facilitate/Assist in filing First Information Report (FIR/NCR) *To provide psycho-social support and counselling to women/girl
3.	UJJAWALA	2016	*To prevent the trafficking of women and children for commercial sexual exploitation. *To facilitate the rescue of victims from the place of their exploitation and place them in safe custody. *To provide rehabilitation services with both immediate and long-term to the victims
4.	Mahila Shakti Kendras (MSK)	2017	*To create an environment for women where they have access to healthcare, quality, education, guidance, employment, etc.
5.	SWADHAR Greh	2018	*To cater to the primary need for shelter, food, clothing, medical treatment, and care of women in distress. *To provide women with legal aid and guidance.

Source: <https://byjus.com/free-ias-prep/women-empowerment/>

As a result, women's empowerment will not be genuine or effective unless their economic and social standing is raised.

4. In the present study the **Fourth Objective** was to Compare the Crimes against Women in various States of India. Result related to this is given in Table 4.

**Table 4: Comparative analysis of Crimes against Women in various States.**

Sr. No.	Crime Head	Year	State/Union Territories						
			Haryana	Uttar Pradesh	Maharashtra	Delhi	Assam	Rajasthan	Tamil Nadu
1.	Murder with Rape/Gang Rape (Sec.376 IPC)	2018	26	46	18	3	67	6	4
		2019	6	35	47	5	27	8	8
		2020	2	31	23	1	26	8	3
		2021	11	48	23	2	47	14	5
Percentage Variation in 2021 over 2020			450%	54.83%	No Change	100%	80.76%	75%	66.66%



Sr. No.	Crime Head	Year	State/Union Territories						
			Haryana	Uttar Pradesh	Maharashtra	Delhi	Assam	Rajasthan	Tamil Nadu
2.	Rape (Sec.376 IPC)	2018	1296	4322	2149	1217	1767	4337	332
		2019	1480	3131	2305	1253	1791	6051	362
		2020	1373	2796	2065	997	1658	5337	390
		2021	1716	2845	2506	1251	1835	<b>6342</b>	422
Percentage Variation in 2021 over 2020			24.98%	1.75%	21.35%	<b>25.47%</b>	10.67%	18.83%	8.21%
Sr. No.	Crime Head	Year	State/Union Territories						
			Haryana	Uttar Pradesh	Maharashtra	Delhi	Assam	Rajasthan	Tamil Nadu
3.	Dowry Deaths (Sec. 304B IPC)	2018	216	2521	205	157	176	405	55
		2019	248	2424	196	117	164	453	28
		2020	251	2302	197	112	150	480	40
		2021	275	2235	<b>172</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>198</b>	454	27
Percentage Variation in 2021 over 2020			9.56%	-2.91%	-12.69%	<b>28.57%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>-5.41%</b>	-3.25%
Sr. No.	Crime Head	Year	State/Union Territories						
			Haryana	Uttar Pradesh	Maharashtra	Delhi	Assam	Rajasthan	Tamil Nadu
4.	Abetment to Suicide of Women (Sec. 305/306 IPC)	2018	356	284	900	46	76	155	245
		2019	226	362	808	48	53	187	241
		2020	204	381	844	44	52	190	250
		2021	205	378	<b>950</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>82</b>	193	250
Percentage Variation in 2021 over 2020			0.49%	-0.78%	12.55%	<b>-9.09%</b>	<b>57.69%</b>	1.57%	No change
Sr. No.	Crime Head	Year	State/Union Territories						
			Haryana	Uttar Pradesh	Maharashtra	Delhi	Assam	Rajasthan	Tamil Nadu
5.	Acid Attack (Sec. 326A IPC)	2018	0	32	5	5	3	1	2
		2019	4	44	6	8	6	2	4
		2020	1	23	4	2	4	2	0
		2021	<b>6</b>	21	3	8	9	3	1
Percentage Variation in 2021 over 2020			<b>500%</b>	-8.69%	<b>- 25%</b>	300%	125%	50%	100%
Sr. No.	Crime Head	Year	State/Union Territories						
			Haryana	Uttar Pradesh	Maharashtra	Delhi	Assam	Rajasthan	Tamil Nadu
6.	Cruelty by Husband or his relatives (Sec. 498 A IPC)	2018	4195	14361	6882	3418	11261	12363	809
		2019	4875	18617	8561	3792	11946	18453	781
		2020	4122	14533	6749	2591	11413	13896	702
		2021	5755	<b>18383</b>	10101	<b>4746</b>	12964	16973	875
Percentage Variation in 2021 over 2020			39.61%	26.49%	49.66%	<b>83.17%</b>	<b>13.58%</b>	22.14%	24.64%
Sr. No.	Crime Head	Year	State/Union Territories						



Sr. No.			Haryana	Uttar Pradesh	Maharashtra	Delhi	Assam	Rajasthan	Tamil Nadu
7.	Kidnapping & Abduction (Sec. 336 IPC)	2018	3449	16784	6924	3926	6737	4264	906
		2019	2863	11745	7008	3789	7220	5915	702
		2020	2449	9257	5332	3009	5915	4766	653
		2021	3084	<b>10695</b>	7750	4171	5866	5986	653
Percentage Variation in 2021 over 2020			25.92%	15.53%	<b>45.34%</b>	38.62%	-0.83%	25.59%	No change
Sr. No.	Crime Head	Year	State/Union Territories						
			Haryana	Uttar Pradesh	Maharashtra	Delhi	Assam	Rajasthan	Tamil Nadu
8.	Assault on Women with Intent to Outrage her Modesty (Sec. 354 IPC)	2018	2676	12977	10871	2721	4204	5283	815
		2019	2585	12157	10512	2356	4645	8807	805
		2020	2339	9903	10007	1841	4654	8690	907
		2021	2883	9703	<b>10578</b>	2080	4511	9084	1077
Percentage Variation in 2021 over 2020			<b>23.25%</b>	-2.01%	5.71%	12.98%	-3.07%	4.53%	18.74%
Sr. No.	Crime Head	Year	State/Union Territories						
			Haryana	Uttar Pradesh	Maharashtra	Delhi	Assam	Rajasthan	Tamil Nadu
9.	SLL Crimes: Cyber Crimes(Sec. 67A/67B IT Act)	2018	43	105	49	20	297	27	31
		2019	50	210	86	13	331	41	45
		2020	87	338	132	13	402	31	191
		2021	98	276	89	<b>105</b>	458	54	75
Percentage Variation in 2021 over 2020			12.64%	-18.34%	-32.57%	<b>707.69%</b>	13.93%	<b>74.19%</b>	<b>-60.73%</b>
Sr. No.	Crime Head-SLL Crimes:	Year	State/Union Territories						
			Haryana	Uttar Pradesh	Maharashtra	Delhi	Assam	Rajasthan	Tamil Nadu
10.	Protection of Children from Sexual Violence Act(Sec.14 & 15 of POCSO Act) (Sec.376, 354, 509 IPC)	2018	1843	5791	6282	1746	1729	456	2039
		2019	1979	7570	6568	1611	1817	571	2389
		2020	1742	6722	5630	1130	1527	226	3103
		2021	2166	<b>7001</b>	6219	1377	1948	580	4503
Percentage Variation in 2021 over 2020			24.33%	4.15%	10.46%	21.85%	27.57%	<b>156.63%</b>	45.11%

Source: [https://ncrb.gov.in/sites/default/files/CII-2021/CII\\_2021Volume%201.pdf](https://ncrb.gov.in/sites/default/files/CII-2021/CII_2021Volume%201.pdf)



#### Findings from Table 4:

1. According to National Crime Records Bureau, the per capita crime rate of UP is 7.4., this ratio means that *Uttar Pradesh* has the highest number of crimes, and thus, the state is unsafe to travel alone. (per capita crime rate = dividing the number of reported crimes by the total population. The result is then multiplied by 100,000).

2. According to (NCRB) National Crime Records Bureau: -

**8.3% dip** in crime against women in **2020** as compared to 2019 and

**15.3% rise** in crime against women in **2021** as compared to 2020

#### CONCLUSION:

A quote by Rania al 'Abdullah' – Queen consort of Jordan- 'Educate a woman and you educate her family.

Educate a girl and you change the future.' It is crucial because their worldviews and belief systems influence

the growth of a healthy family, good society, and eventually a good country. Women should be able to work and be given the necessary protection and assistance to do so. To raise female status in society, they should be paid income and allowed to work alongside men.

It is necessary to create awareness campaigns to inform women about their legal rights, particularly to those from disadvantaged groups. Perhaps integrating women into the mainstream of development is the greater approach to achieve empowerment.

Governmental measures by themselves would not be adequate to accomplish this.

For there to be no gender discrimination and for

women to fully participate in the social, political, and economic life of the nation with a sense of equality; society must take the effort to do so.

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